

Governor's Family Violence Council
staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Judiciary Training Center
2011 Commerce Park Drive, LL 11 and 12
Annapolis, MD 21401
Thursday, January 19, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Jeanne Yeager, Chair
Lillian Agbeyegbe
Captain Holly Barrett for Colonel William Pallozzi
Michael Cohen
Jessica Dickerson for Secretary Sam Abed
Debbie Feinstein
V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.
Ellen Grunden for Scott Patterson
Verna Jones for Senator Bryan Simonaire
Dorothy Lennig
John McGinnis for Dr. Karen Salmon
Lisa Nitsch
Kathleen O'Brien
Manuel Ruiz
David Shultie
Anne Orwig Weatherholt
Dave Wolinski for Secretary Stephen Moyer
Lee Woods for Secretary Dennis Schrader
Carrie Williams for Brian Frosh

Guests:

Anna Barton, YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County
LaTisha Carter, My Covenant Place
Sophie Ford, Family Crisis Center of Prince George's County
Sarah Myers, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
ChoNayse Sellers for Lisae Jordan, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Lyn Twyman, Leaving Abuse Supporting Everyone Restoring Survivors (LASERS, Inc.)

Staff:

Becky Allyn, Juvenile Justice and Victim Services Program Assistant, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Kim Herndon, Director of Victim Services, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Sabraya Knight, Juvenile Justice and Victim Services Intern, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention

I. Welcome, Introductions, and Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention Updates

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Glenn Fueston informed the group about the Governor's Justice for Victims Initiative. The Governor is focusing on a new Transitional Housing Assistance Program, Repeat Sexual Predator Prevention Act of 2017, Protecting Victims of Sex Trafficking Act of 2017 and the Repeat Drunk Driving Offenders Act of 2017. Mr. Fueston discussed the Maryland State Board of Victim Services Strategic Planning Retreat that was held a week ago, where a strategic planning process for strengthening victim services in Maryland began. Mr. Fueston reiterated his desire for a strategic planning process within the Family Violence Council as well. Mr. Fueston also announced that effective January 3, 2017, the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention and the Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services (DPSCS) entered a mutual agreement to transfer full administrative oversight of all functions of Vine Notification Everyday (VINE) and VINE Protective Orders (VPO) to DPSCS, including troubleshooting, training, sex offender registry, and distribution of brochures. This decision allows DPSCS to have greater oversight and resolve issues promptly. Stanley Lofton is the new VINE Program Manager at DPSCS. Mr. Lofton's contact information is:

Stanley Lofton
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Information Technology & Communications Division
Office (410)585-3140
Stanley.lofton@maryland.gov

II. Chair's Remarks

Jeanne Yeager welcomed all new and existing members and stated that she is looking forward to creating a thorough strategic plan with outcome based performance measures to submit recommendations to the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention.

III. Approval of Minutes

Members were provided with minutes from the November 14, 2016 meeting. Dorothy Lennig made a motion to approve the minutes. Debbie Feinstein seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

IV. Membership Updates

Becky Allyn announced that there are two new members have been appointed and/or re-appointed to the Council since the last meeting:

- Kathleen O'Brien
- Lillian Agbeyegbe

Adam Rosenberg's term expired on 6/30/16. There is a candidate under consideration for this seat. There is currently one vacancy for a Senator on the Council and the Office is actively working to fill the seat.

V. Workgroup Updates

a. Gun Removal Implementation Workgroup

Dorothy Lennig, Chair, provided members with an overview of the workgroup. The workgroup has identified several gaps in the Public Safety Article 5-101(b-1). The workgroup is proposing legislation, SB 224, which would clarify that if a defendant gets probation before judgment for a domestically related 2nd degree assault, s/he would be disqualified from possessing a firearm. Ms. Lennig told the council that the workgroup has made recommendations to the Defendant's Trial Summary to make the Federal Firearms type larger, move the Firearms warning above the signature, add the Attorney Generals website, add the phone number for the Maryland State Police and add another statement about what disqualifies a person from owning a handgun.

Ms. Lennig brought up an issue that she has come across with cases that start as citations and summons. She said in cases that start as such, they are not arrested so there are no fingerprints taken. If the defendant goes to court and receives probation before judgment for a domestically related crime but doesn't get fingerprinted, there is no linkage in the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS). Debbie Feinstein and Ellen Grunden explained that fingerprints are not always ordered in those circumstances but they agreed that they should be. They suggested contacting the Maryland State's Attorneys Association to request that fingerprints be ordered on cases such as these. Dave Wolinski suggested that live scan technology be used to document the fingerprints, then sent to CJIS and logged into the system to provide a comprehensive record.

b. Social and Emotional Learning/ Healthy Teen Dating Workgroup

Debbie Feinstein, Chair, explained that the workgroup is currently drafting a questionnaire and letter to send to health supervisors and stakeholders to get an idea of what healthy teen dating curriculums are present throughout Maryland. The goal is to send the questionnaire and letter in February and report back to the Council on the findings by the July meeting. The workgroup does not intend on proposing legislation. The next meeting is Monday, March 13, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Montgomery County Family Justice Center located at 600 Jefferson Plaza, Fifth Floor, Rockville, MD 20852.

c. Abuser Intervention Program/Certification & Guidelines Workgroup

Lisa Nitsch recapped a previous Council workgroup from 2014, Abusers Not Meeting Conditions of Court Orders which focused on the lack of consequences for those who did not follow the conditions of court orders. The workgroup worked with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to develop a database to track these offenders.

The Department is supportive of the database but needs funding for it. Ms. Nitsch suggested reconvening for one last meeting to report what is happening currently when abusers are not meeting conditions of court orders.

Ms. Nitsch brought up another previous workgroup, Certification and Guidelines, where the framework for auditing Abuse Intervention Programs was declared. She wanted the Council to reconvene this workgroup to discuss if the certification and audit process has integrity and analyze if there are barriers to Abuse Intervention Programs for certification. There was a study conducted on Abuse Intervention Programs guidelines which is now complete. If reconvened, the workgroup would examine where they are with the certification process and state guidelines for Abuse Intervention Programs. Jeanne Yeager supported this workgroup being revived and suggested a strategic plan focus for the workgroup. Glenn Fueston asked if the workgroup could better define certify, guidelines and audit as it pertains to Abuse Intervention Programs and also suggested discussing if the certification process should be under the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention.

VI. Maryland Abuse Intervention Collaborative Goals/Updates

LaTisha Carter explained that the goals of the Maryland Abuse Intervention Collaborative are to ensure that there is quality and effective Abuse Intervention Programs in Maryland, promote victim safety, hold offenders accountable, and promote best practices. The priorities for the Collaborative in 2017 are to increase visibility among stakeholders, facilitate a feedback loop with criminal justice components (ex: monitoring compliance and reducing high risk of non-compliance), and to be considered under the fourth treatment provider category for the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. Ms. Carter told the Council that the Collaborative has created letters to send out to stakeholders to invite them to their meetings to identify gaps in monitoring and compliance and make other recommendations for Abuse Intervention Programs.

VII. Legislative Updates

Dorothy Lennig and Michael Cohen provided updates on potential legislation in the 2017 General Assembly around the Healthcare Decisions Act, Global Positioning System (GPS) bill, Maryland Healthy Working Families Act, and clarifying the language for a conviction of a disqualifying crime with probation before judgment. Members were asked to continue sharing legislation information with the Council and the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention.

VIII. Strategic Plan for Domestic Violence in Maryland

Ms. Yeager explained that the Council will be working with the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention to create a strategic plan for the Council. The Council will provide the Office with recommendations for funding and best practices for programs related to domestic violence. Some members mentioned that they cannot participate fully in this plan during the legislative session. Ms. Yeager suggested setting a day to focus on the strategic plan after the

legislative session, or during the session for those who are available. The group was excited to create a strategic plan that could potentially be used as an example locally.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

X. Follow Up Items

- GOCCP in collaboration with the Family Violence Council and Maryland State Board of Victim Services to create a timeline for the statewide victims strategic plan
- GOCCP to email Council regarding SB 224
- GOCCP and Dorothy Lennig will create a visual diagram of the breakdown of the process of fingerprinting after a citation/summons to better show where there are gaps and weak points
 - Dave Wolinski will help with information on the live scan technology to document fingerprints
- Once the Healthy Teen Dating Workgroup letter and questionnaire are complete, distribute to Council and the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention for review (the questionnaire and letter will be sent via email to the stakeholders)
 - Will be completed by mid-February
- GOCCP to work with Lisa Nitsch to have a status update for the 2014 workgroup, Abusers Not Meeting Conditions of Court Orders, to have one last meeting to see what is currently happening for abusers not meeting conditions of court orders
- GOCCP, with Lisa Nitsch, to reconvene the workgroup for the Certification and Guidelines of Abuse Intervention Programs
 - Better define certify, guidelines, and audit as it pertains to Abuse Intervention Programs
- GOCCP to email Council to see who would like to be a part of the Strategic Planning Workgroup
 - Set up a meeting date for this workgroup

Next Meeting:

Thursday, April 6, 2017
Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Main Conference Room, 1st Floor, Side A
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.